

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Committee-of-the-Whole
June 21, 2011
3:30 p.m.

The Chair called the meeting to order and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Mason, Lower, Tiejema, Banks, Calley and Shattuck
Members absent: Vroman

Others present: Lisa McCafferty, Jim Valentine, Loren Gage, Jon Szerlag, Nancy Hickey, Brent Schipper, Cheryl O'Connor, Dwain Dennis, Diane Adams, Jessica Wierckz, Sug Pinnow, Suzanne Kreeger, Lindsey Beill, Barb Trierweiler, Stephanie Hurlbut and Tonda Rich

The Chair noted that there were no additions to the agenda.

The Chair opened up the Public Comment period. Lisa McCafferty introduced Lindsey Beill as the new Animal Control Manager.

Moved by Tiejema, supported by Banks, to approve the agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

New Business

- A. County Treasurer, Nancy Hickey, in accordance with MCL 211.78m(*8)(h), presented the Board with a written report on Foreclosed Land Sales Proceeds. Hickey stated there were 51 parcels foreclosed on. Currently the proceeds are in the negative. The Treasurer further discussed partnering with the City of Ionia on demolishing some of the foreclosed homes and will be in contact with Ionia Township who may want to do the same. (A copy of the Annual Report is on file in the Clerk's Office)
- B. **Departmental Reports**
 - 1. Loren Gage, Park Manager, gave an update on Bertha Brock Park and answered various questions from the Board concerning the mosquitoes, Frisbee golf and the Hunting and Fishing Club. (A copy of the Park Report is on file in the Clerk's Office)
 - 2. Equalization Director, Cheryl O'Connor, discussed various businesses that are appealing their property taxes. In addition, O'Connor briefly discussed the taxable value for Ionia County and answered questions from the Board. (A copy of the Equalization Report is on file in the Clerk's Office)
 - 3. County Sheriff, Dwain Dennis, presented the Board with the Sheriff's Department Activity Report. Other topics of discussion included the police car locaters and the possibility of housing fugitives (ICE – customs). (A copy of the Activity Report is on file in the Clerk's Office)

4. Health Officer, Lisa McCafferty, discussed the Agency Report for June 21, 2011 Board of Health meeting. McCafferty also updated the Board on the Hill's contract (dog food), the new generator at the Health Department, the animal shelter and addressing. (A copy of the Agency Report is on file in the Clerk's Office)
5. Information Technician, Brent Schipper, discussed the police car locaters and how the system works, the Central Dispatch phone system, internet connection and the upcoming annual security audit. (A copy of the IT Report is on file in the Clerk's Office)
6. County Clerk, Tonda Rich, discussed her report which related to the Circuit Court operations in her office and answered questions from the Board. (A copy of the Clerk's Report is on file in the Clerk's Office)
7. No report was given by the Prosecutor.
8. Judge Kreeger discussed courthouse security and recommended changes that could be implemented with little cost. The Sheriff stated that he was in agreement with the Judge on this issue. Kreeger gave a brief updated on the Drug Court and stated that there is a collaborative effort with the Prosecutor's Office regarding collections.

C. Budget Discussion

Stephanie Hurlbut, Interim County Administrator/Finance Director, presented the Board with a 2011 General Fund – Fund Balance Analysis.

James Lower stated that he believed SB 0007 concerning the 20% premium sharing was not likely going to pass.

Hurlbut went on to discuss the analysis and was directed to put more information together and bring back to the Board for more discussion.

Reports

The Chairperson commented on the School of Missionary Aviation Technology open house

Commissioner Lower commented on an ORV Ordinance.

The County Administrator stated that pursuant to PA 54 of 2011, the County is prohibited from granting wage step increases for bargaining unit members who are working under expired collective bargaining agreements and stated she is sending letters out regarding this notification to the union representatives. In addition, the county's legal counsel is reviewing/updating the County's Personnel Policy.

Moved by Lower, supported by Tiejema, to adjourn the meeting at 5:17 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Jack Shattuck, Chair

Tonda Rich, Clerk